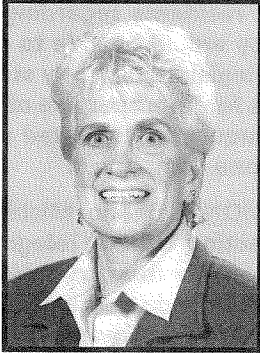


# Hammerstrom's

for the people  
in the 17th Senate District

# Hotline



State Senator

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January 17, 2005



**CELEBRATE MICHIGAN STATEHOOD DAY** Michigan entered the Union and became the 26th state on January 26, 1837. The Michigan Historical Museum will celebrate the state's 168th birthday with a free, public celebration on Sunday, January 23, 2005, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The museum's second floor galleries will be humming with music and handicraft demonstrations of the 1850s. Visitors will have the opportunity to see what life was like for Michiganians in the years before the Civil War. The first 100 families who arrive will receive a free miniature state flag. The Michigan Historical Museum is located in the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing. For more information about Michigan Statehood Day, please visit the state's Department of History, Arts and Libraries website at [www.michigan.gov/hal](http://www.michigan.gov/hal), or contact the Michigan Historical Museum at (517) 373-3559.

**DID YOU KNOW?** When Michigan was admitted to the Union, the state accepted a congressional proposal giving Toledo to Ohio and the wilderness of the western Upper Peninsula to Michigan, ending a bitter territorial battle between Michiganians and Ohioans.

**THREE NEW LAWS ENCOURAGE PAPERLESS PAYMENTS** Legislation designed to save the state money by requiring certain state payments to be paid by electronic funds transfers was recently signed into law. Public Act 533 of 2004 requires all non-classified state government employees, elected and appointed state officials, and contractors providing goods and services to the state be paid electronically beginning October 1, 2005. PA 534 allows an employer to use payroll debit cards to pay employees. Employees reserve the right to opt out of the debit card payments and still receive a paper check. PA 549 requires Michigan to disburse child support payments electronically either by direct deposit or, for those who do not have a bank account, through a debit card system administered by the state. The Department of Management and Budget estimates the state saves a net of 47 cents per EFT transaction. Electronic funds transfers are safe, secure, and efficient.

**REVERSE 911 SYSTEM SIGNED INTO LAW** Emergency service responders could notify Michigan residents by telephone of natural disasters or other impending danger under a new law. Public Act 515 of 2004 allows responders to use the telephone numbers supplied to them by telecommunications providers to contact residents regarding an imminent danger or crisis that may affect their health, safety, or welfare. The local 911 agency would be able to program the numbers into an automatic dialer that would reach many residents at one time. The legislation clearly states that the information can only be used for emergency purposes and imposes criminal penalties for improper use of the provided telephone numbers and other data. It also limits how often a service district can request an updated subscriber list to no more than once a month to avoid placing an unnecessary burden on the phone companies.

**MDOT INVITES PUBLIC INPUT ON TRAFFIC AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT STUDY IN MONROE** The Michigan Department of Transportation currently is studying access, traffic, and land use issues affecting US-24 (Telegraph Road) in Monroe County, between Albain and Labo Roads, and is encouraging the public to offer their comments. The study began October 1, 2004, and is scheduled to conclude in September 2005. It is being conducted by MDOT in cooperation with Monroe County, Ash Township, Frenchtown Charter Township, Monroe Charter Township, and the City of Monroe. It will examine possible solutions to reducing congestion and improving traffic flow through the US-24 corridor, as well as improving access to businesses. For more information in regard to the US-24 traffic study, or to submit suggestions, please contact MDOT toll-free at 1-800-796-2596, or visit [www.us24access.com](http://www.us24access.com).

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If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,  
please contact me at [SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov)